

## NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT**



For Immediate Release:

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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor  
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

### ***Kernan Awards Grant for Lake County Workforce Development***

Indianapolis, Ind. – With his focus on strengthening the job skills of Lake County workers, today Gov. Joe Kernan awarded \$264,600 in Energizing Indiana's Workforce funds to the Lake County Integrated Service Delivery Board.

Awarded through the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the grants are designed to create stronger links between economic and workforce development. Specifically, the funds are used to support efforts to upgrade the skills of the Hoosier workforce in the four industry sectors: life sciences, advanced manufacturing, high-tech distribution and information technology.

"In order to compete in a global marketplace, we need to focus our attention at the local level," said Kernan. "New training opportunities through this grant will increase the skill levels of local workers, making Northwest Indiana more attractive to business and industry. We applaud the Lake County Integrated Service Delivery Board on its efforts to help improve the local economy."

The Lake County Integrated Service Delivery Board will use the funding to accomplish four goals. First, the board will finish the work of the Community Workforce Compact that is addressing the skill needs of both Lake County and the other areas of the Northwest Indiana region. It will also partner with Ivy Tech to support a program in robotics training that will allow for the retraining of incumbent workers to improve the automation levels present in regional businesses. Third, an Adopt-A-Business program will be implemented that will creatively engage local businesses in community development projects. Finally, the board will offer tuition assistance to 80 life sciences workers to achieve additional health care certifications to meet the area's workforce needs.

"The Lake County Integrated Delivery Board is pleased with the grant it has received from the Governor," said James McShane, WIB Director. "We are working closely with our major business sectors in healthcare, logistics and advanced manufacturing with the Ivy Tech, Gary partnership. We are also piloting a program with the Small Business Development Center at the NWI Forum, the Institute for Innovative Leadership at IUN and our service provider Workforce Development Services, Inc. to tap the resources and creative energy of our youth to help local businesses improve its bottom line. This grant will help Hoosiers finish their schooling and increase their value to their employers."

"These grants not only support the goals of Energize Indiana, they also support the state's workforce development initiative, Indiana@Work. By providing this funding to the WIBs, we can work together to develop programs to support the needs of our workers and employers," added Kernan.

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Indiana@Work is comprehensive workforce development plan, announced by the governor in his State-of-the-State address. The program combines the efforts of DWD and the Indiana Department of Commerce in an effort to match jobseekers with companies that have openings. It also provides training funds to businesses, for potential employees who are facing a “skills gap” that could keep them from attaining higher-pay jobs. And, eventually, Indiana@Work will help workers develop “e-resumes” that they can carry with them throughout their careers.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, partners with the state’s 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this, or any other DWD program, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).

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